

Response to Office Action Mailed March 20, 2007

A. Claims In The Case

Claims 1-3 have been rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-3 are pending in the case.

B. Comment Regarding Oath/Declaration

The Examiner indicated that there is an inconsistency between the filing date of JP-2003-108546 in the declaration and the filing date appearing on the certified copy. Applicant has noted that a typographical error appears on the declaration and the date of the priority document indicated on the declaration should be corrected to read April 14, 2003. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant has included a supplemental application data sheet with the correct information indicated on the form.

C. Objections to Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figures 5-6A-B, indicating that the figures should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." Applicant has submitted replacement sheets for all figures. The legend "Prior Art" has been added to Figures 5-6A-B.

The Examiner indicated that some of the reference characters that appear in the figures are not mentioned in the specification. For clarification, Applicant has deleted reference character 11 from figures 2-4, and reference characters 7, 15, and 16 of figure 1 from the figures.

Applicant has included a marked-up copy of the figures indicated the changes made and replacement sheets for these figures.

D. Objections to Specification

The Examiner objected to the abstract. Applicant has amended the abstract for clarification.

The Examiner also objected to the paragraph inserted at the beginning of the application. Applicant respectfully notes that the section referring to the “Related Application Data” was not added by the Applicant. Applicant, however, has amended the specification for clarification.

E. The Claims Are Not Anticipated By The Cited Art Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,452,407 to Khoury (“Khoury”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

Claim 1 describes a combination of features including but not limited to the following features:

a connection terminal part integrally formed and connected to a substrate;

a probe support portion; and

a contact part, the contact part comprising

an edge part having a tapered end configuration; and

a contact support part which supports the edge part and couples the edge part to the probe support part,

wherein the contact part extends from the probe support part, and wherein the edge part has a sectional configuration which shares at least one side face with the contact support part and wherein the edge part has a thickness that is less than the thickness of the contact support part.

Applicant's claims are directed to a modified probe. Turning to Fig. 1, a schematic of Applicant's probe is depicted. Probe includes a contact part (5) and a probe supporting part (2). Contact part (5) includes a contact support part (10, See Fig. 2) and a edge part (9). As can be seen in the figures, edge part (9) has a thickness that is less than the thickness of the contact support part. Applicant submits that at least this feature, in combination with the other features of the claims, is not taught or suggested by Khoury.

F. The Dependent Claims Are Separately Patentable

The Examiner is also respectfully requested to separately consider each of the dependent claims for patentability. Many of the dependent claims in addition to those mentioned above are independently patentable.

For instance, claim 2 recites "wherein the contact part is formed of an electrically conductive material having superior electric characteristics." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of the independent claims, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 3 recites "wherein the contact part is formed of a metal material having elasticity." Applicant submits that this feature, in combination with the features of the independent claims, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Tetsuji Ueno
10/553,064

G. Summary

Based on the above, Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance.
Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5682-00800/EBM

Respectfully submitted,



Mark R. DeLuca
Reg. No. 44,649

Patent Agent for Applicant

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P.O. BOX 398
AUSTIN, TX 78767-0398
(512) 853-8800 (voice)
(512) 853-8801 (facsimile)

Date: 8 / 13 / 07